



# Environmental Fact Sheet

## NEW REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE BURNERS

*The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing supplemental regulations to reduce and control toxic pollutants from industrial furnaces and boilers burning 1.8 million tons of hazardous waste a year. The proposal requires applicable facilities to obtain operating permits under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or to stop burning hazardous waste. EPA has determined that improper burning of hazardous waste in these devices can have serious, adverse impacts on public health and the environment. These regulations apply identical emissions standards to boilers and industrial furnaces as those being applied on a site-specific basis to hazardous waste incinerators. They apply to all facilities burning hazardous waste for any reason, thus minimizing the importance of determining whether a boiler or industrial furnace is engaged in bonafide recycling or incineration.*

### BACKGROUND

Hazardous waste can be burned in boilers, industrial furnaces, and incinerators for specific, but different purposes. Incinerators use controlled combustion to treat or destroy hazardous waste, and are regulated by RCRA, Subpart O. Boilers and industrial furnaces typically use controlled combustion to burn waste for energy or materials recovery (recycling activities), and are minimally regulated by RCRA.

On May 6, 1987, EPA published a proposal to regulate boilers and industrial furnaces burning hazardous waste under standards similar to existing requirements for hazardous waste incinerators. The regulations are designed to protect public health and the environment from emissions from these facilities whether hazardous waste is burned for the purpose of recycling--energy or materials recovery--or destruction. Therefore, the proposal applies to all boilers and industrial furnaces burning hazardous waste for any reason.

EPA estimates that industrial furnaces burn 100-150 million gallons of hazardous waste annually, with cement and light-weight aggregate kilns burning the bulk of the waste. In addition to these burners, the regulations cover metal smelters, lime kilns, sulfur recovery furnaces, and nonindustrial, industrial, and utility boilers.

## **CONCLUSION**

Approximately 1,000 boilers and industrial furnaces are affected by these regulations, including several controversial companies. Of 900 boilers, the majority will likely be exempt from regulation because they burn relatively small amounts of waste; around 100 will apply for permits; and about 200 will stop burning hazardous waste. EPA expects all industrial furnaces (approximately 75) to apply for permits.

## **CONTACT**

For additional information or to order a copy of the *Federal Register* notice, contact the RCRA Hotline Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST. The national toll-free number is (800) 424-9346; TDD (800) 553-7672 (hearing impaired); in Washington, D.C. the number is (202) 382-3000, TDD (202) 475-9652.